in its advisory capacity, has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time. These guidelines take into account the views of Minorities Commission also, and are periodically reviewed and revised.

Increase in the water supply to the residents of Delhi

1323. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been worked out for increasing the supply of water to the residents of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that it has planned taken several long term measures and short term measures (scheduled for completion within the current year) to increase the supply of drinking water in Delhi. Some of the measures are:—

SHORT TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of 180 MLD water treatment plant at Wazirabad. First phase already completed.

(ii) Construction of 54 MLD Iron Removal Water Treatment Plant at Okhla.

(iii) Construction of 5 Ranney Wells in Alipur expected to yield about 67.50 MLD.

LONG TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of econd 450 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Haiderpur (3 years).

(ii) Construction of 180 MLD (40 MGD) water treatment plant at Nangloi (2-3 years).

(iii) Construction of 450 MLD water treatment plant at Gokulpuri in trans-Yamuna (5-6 years).

Review of working of Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System

1324. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the working of the Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details of its findings and recommendations made therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) According to available information, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) conducted a study on Agricultural Price Policy in India, the report of which *inter-alia* contains reference to the Public Distribution System (PDS). The main findings in the report regarding PDS in the context of Agricultural Price Policy from the consumers' point of view are that Public Distribution System has not been very effective, it is restricted primarily to urban centres, large section of the poor people are outside its purview and even those who are covered do not necessarily get the benefit of issue prices. Quotas are not lifted because of the poor quality of foodgrains and irregular supply by the Food Corporation of India. PDS has thus failed to serve its objectives but the burden on the exchequer is increasing.

(c) Although an indepth examination of the study report has not been made, its conclusions appear to be based on inadequate appreciation of the role of PDS and are, therefore, misleading. While there may be inadequacies in an operation of the magnitude of PDS covering the entire country through as many as over 3.5 lakhs fair price shops, it cannot but be

appreciated that the PDS plays an important role in keeping price rise in check and reaching subsidised essential commodities even to rural areas, and to specially vulnerable groups in ITDP areas. The specially useful rule of PDS during times of drought and other natural calamities also cannot be ignored.

Rs. Assistance from State Governments and the public for Financing Railway projects

1325. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to get assistance from the State Governments and the Public for financing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Government agencies like State Industrial Development Corporations have jointly executed projects like in Maharashtra, if so, whether the same pattern is proposed to be adopted in other States also; and

(c) by when the details of the scheme would be finalised and implemented and whether State Governments would be asked to submit their priority projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Assistance for financing Railway projects from State Government and Public is considered only on initiative of the State Government in very selected cases after the scheme is got approved by them from the Union Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. However, in case of new Konkan Railway line project, the four concerned State Governments are likely to contribute funds.

(c) City Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) an agency of the State Government of Maharashtra is sharing 67 per cent cost of Mankhurd-Belapur new rail line project. It is upto State Governments to decide whether to adopt this pattern for sharing cost of such railway projects in their States.

Priority to Konkan coastal railway and projects in the Border areas of Kutch in Gujarat

1326. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord priority to Konkan Coastal railway and projects in the border areas of Kutch in Gujarat as stated by the Minister and reported by the Press in Ahmedabad during his election campaign;

(b) whether conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line from meter gauge to broad gauge is under Government's consideration to provide direct link to Kutch district; and

(c) whether the Defence Ministry has submitted a proposal to link Kutch district with the rest of the country in view of its strategic position, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Priority is proposed to be given only to West Coastal railway project between Roha and Mangalore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Complaints of corruption against Railway staff

1327. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints of corruption received against Railway staff during the last three years and what is the number of gazetted and non-gazetted staff against whom action has been taken, year-wise;

(b) whether a campaign is being launched to cleanse the Railways of the corrupt and the inefficient; if so, the details thereof; and